

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/829,015

Examiner

Freda A. Nelson

Applicant(s)

KARA, SALIM G.

Art Unit

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the TD filed 08/11/05 and the Interview of 09/07/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

The terminal disclaimer filed on August 11, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent Number 6,233, 568 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

The drawings filed on April 9, 2001 are acceptable to the examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with representative Viguet on September 7, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method operable on a general multi-purpose processor-based system for authorizing a transaction to be conducted utilizing a particular provider, wherein information with respect to said transaction as conducted by each of a plurality of providers is presented for selection of said particular provider, ~~and wherein~~ through the use of said general multi-purpose processor-based system that will execute ~~executes~~ a computer program in

addition to a computer program operable for authorizing said transaction to be conducted, said method comprising the steps of:

- determining desired transaction parameters;

- determining a value of said transaction associated with two or more of said plurality of providers and a number of available services utilizing ones of said transaction parameters;

- presenting each of said determined values, services, and differences between the services and the desired parameters to a user for comparison;

- selecting said particular provider as a function of said comparison of said ones of said plurality of providers; and

- obtaining authorization information acceptable by said particular provider in conducting said transactions: and

- printing said authorization information.

9. (Currently Amended) A general multi-purpose processor-based system for authorizing a transaction to be conducted utilizing a particular provider, wherein said general multi-purpose processor-based system ~~executes~~ will execute a general-purpose computer program in addition to a computer program operable for authorizing said transaction to be conducted, and wherein information with respect to said transaction as conducted by each of a plurality of providers is presented for selection of said particular provider, said system comprising:

means for determining parameters with respect to said desired transaction;

means for determining a value of said transaction associated with two or more of said plurality of providers and a number of available services utilizing ones of said transaction parameters;

means for presenting each of said determined values, services, and differences between the services and the desired parameters to a user for comparison;

means for selecting said particular provider as a function of said comparison of said ones of said plurality of providers; and

means for generating authorization information acceptable by said particular provider in conducting said transaction, wherein said authorization information includes data from which said particular provider may verify prepayment of said transaction value.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent claims 1, 8-9, and 13-14, the prior art of record, specifically Piccione (Patent Number 4,495,581) and Barns-Slavin et al. (Patent Number 5,117,364), each discloses a computer implemented shipping system

which determines the lowest cost carrier for an item to be shipped and then presents the user/customer with a display of the shipping fee and carrier for selection; Wright et al. (Patent Number 4,802,218), discloses a computer implemented shipping system for obtaining/generating and printing a carrier specific waybill and a carrier specific indicia containing carrier authentication information; Ramsden (Patent Number 5,656,799), discloses a computer implemented shipping system which prints a carrier shipping label; and Berson et al. (Patent Number 6,039,257), discloses using accounting information to generate a multidimensional barcode for the validation of a postage indicia. However, neither Piccione, Barns-Slavin, Wright et al. Ramsden, nor Berson et al. disclose or fairly teach:

Implementing a transaction authorization machine or process on a general multi-purpose processor-based system" that will execute applications/programs for functions other than using entered transaction parameter data to authorize transactions and print transaction indicia, where the process implements the functions of:

- 1) using entered transaction data to determine the value of a transaction for a number of different services that are provided by a plurality of providers;
- 2) providing a display of the determined transaction values and services for selection by an user; and
- 3) then based on the services selected by the user, generates/obtains and prints authorization data for an item that is acceptable to selected provider of the selected service.

The NPL prior art of record, specifically, "How do you select carriers? It depends", while disclosing determining carrier selection criteria, does not disclose or fairly teach:

Implementing a transaction authorization machine or process on a general multi-purpose processor-based system" that will execute applications/programs for functions other than using entered transaction parameter data to authorize transactions and print transaction indicia, where the process implements the functions of:

- 1) using entered transaction data to determine the value of a transaction for a number of different services that are provided by a plurality of providers;
- 2) providing a display of the determined transaction values and services for selection by an user; and
- 3) then based on the services selected by the user, generates/obtains and prints authorization data for an item that is acceptable to selected provider of the selected service.

The foreign prior art of record, Pintsov et al. (JP 408224549), while disclosing a mail processing system assigning unique mail piece authorization in advance of mail piece entering carrier service mail processing stream, does not disclose or fairly teach:

Implementing a transaction authorization machine or process on a general multi-purpose processor-based system" that will execute applications/programs

for functions other than using entered transaction parameter data to authorize transactions and print transaction indicia, where the process implements the functions of:

- 1) using entered transaction data to determine the value of a transaction for a number of different services that are provided by a plurality of providers;
- 2) providing a display of the determined transaction values and services for selection by a user; and
- 3) then based on the services selected by the user, generates/obtains and prints authorization data for an item that is acceptable to a selected provider of the selected service.

The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

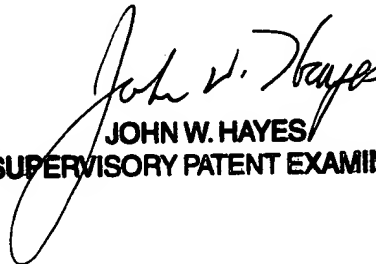
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freda A. Nelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7076. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FAN 10/28/2005



JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER